

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing configuration information in a redundant array of independent disks (RAID) storage controller, the method comprising:

the RAID storage controller being connected to and controlling a redundant array of independent disks;

the RAID storage controller being coupled to a host computer system;

executing, by the RAID storage controller, storage system software, which provides a software interface between the RAID storage controller and the host computer system;

executing, by the RAID storage controller, boot menu console software that is used by an operator to set parameters for the RAID storage controller's operation;

executing, by the host computer system, interface software;

setting, by the operator, backup parameters that define how a backup operation of the RAID storage controller will be executed;

invoking a backup operation using the backup parameters; and

responsive to a given event that is a command that was entered by the operator through one of the interface software and the boot menu console software:

determining if a removable non-volatile memory module is connected to ~~the a-~~first RAID storage controller; and

responsive to the removable non-volatile memory module being connected to the [[first]] RAID storage controller, executing the backup operation to store configuration information from the [[first]] RAID storage controller to the removable non-volatile memory module.

2.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

responsive to a restore event, restoring the configuration information from the removable non-volatile memory module to the [[first]] RAID storage controller.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the restore event is a command that was entered by the operator through one of the interface software and the boot menu console software.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
disconnecting the removable non-volatile memory module from the [[first]] RAID storage controller.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
connecting the removable non-volatile memory module to a second RAID storage controller.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
responsive to a restore event, restoring the configuration information from the removable non-volatile memory module to the second RAID storage controller.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the restore event is a command that was entered by the operator through one of the interface software and the boot menu console software.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
determining whether the configuration information is compatible with the second RAID storage controller; and
responsive to the configuration information not being compatible with the second RAID storage controller, notifying the operator of incompatible configuration information.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration information includes at least one of configuration data, firmware, bootware images, and component summary data.
12. (Currently Amended) A redundant array of independent disks (RAID) storage controller that is coupled between a computer system, which is external to the storage controller, and a redundant array of independent disks, the RAID storage controller comprising:
a memory;
the RAID storage controller controlling the redundant array of independent disks;
receiving means for receiving, via storage system software that is executed by the RAID storage controller, backup parameters from the computer system;
the backup parameters, set by an operator of the computer system via interface software that is executed by the computer system, defining how a backup operation will be executed;
a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) slot;

the RAID storage controller executing boot menu console software that is used by the operator to set parameters for the RAID storage controller's operation;

invoking means for invoking a backup operation using the backup parameters; and

responsive to the operator entering a command through one of the interface software and the boot menu console software:

determining means for determining if a removable non-volatile memory module is inserted in the PCMCIA slot; and

responsive to the removable non-volatile memory module being inserted in the PCMCIA slot, executing means for executing the backup operation to copy configuration information from the memory to the removable non-volatile memory module.

13.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The storage controller of claim 12, wherein the configuration information includes at least one of configuration data, firmware, bootware images, and component summary data.

16. (Original) The storage controller of claim 12, wherein the removable non-volatile memory module is a flash memory module.

17. (Original) The storage controller of claim 16, wherein the flash memory module has a flash file system format for storing data.

18.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

using, by the host computer system, an Ethernet communications link to communicate with the RAID storage controller.

22. (Previously Presented) The RAID storage controller of claim 12, wherein the RAID storage controller is connected to the computer system using an Ethernet link.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the RAID storage controller being housed within a storage controller enclosure in which a second RAID storage controller is also housed; and

providing, by the second RAID storage controller, redundancy to the RAID storage controller.

24. (Currently Amended) The RAID storage controller of claim 12, further comprising:
the RAID storage controller housed within a storage controller enclosure in which a second RAID storage controller is also housed; and
wherein the second RAID storage controller provides redundancy to the RAID storage controller.